



37 C.F.R. 1.114(d)

Please charge the applicable fee (37 C.F.R. 1.114(d) and 37 C.F.R. 1.17(e)) to Deposit Account No. 02-1425.

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Please amend claim 1 as follows.

Subcl
BT

1. (once amended) A method for treating a biomaterial comprising contacting the surface of said biomaterial with a cationic polysaccharide to inhibit the ability of the biomaterial to sorb cationic antimicrobials.

This amendment includes an attachment entitled "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE".

Please reconsider the rejections in view of the following remarks.

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Remarks

1. The amendment to claim 1.

This amendment clarifies claim 1 by moving claim limitations concerning treatment of the biomaterial with the cationic polysaccharide from the preamble into the affirmative process step. Accordingly, the amendment finds support in claim 1 as filed.

2. 35 U.S.C. 102 – Novelty

The Office Action rejected claims 1-18 as lacking novelty over U.S. Patent 5,965,631 to Nicolson et al. ("Nicolson"). Applicants respectfully traverse and request reconsideration.

Nicolson discloses the use of poly(ethylene glycol) as a reactant in one step of a synthetic process for making a polysiloxane macromer (column 19, lines 30-57). In contrast, applicants claim a method for inhibiting the ability of a biomaterial to sorb cationic antimicrobials. The claimed method requires contacting the surface of the biomaterial with a cationic polysaccharide polysaccharide to inhibit the ability of the biomaterial to sorb cationic antimicrobials. Please see claim 1. The claimed affirmative process step is absent from Nicolson.

The Nicolson method for synthesizing a polysiloxane macromer cannot anticipate the claimed method for treating the surface of a biomaterial. Applicants request that the rejection